NEW LIGHT.

It is now four years since the first experiment on the subject of rendering continuous, and fixing at a given point, the electric fluid, and making it applicable to the general purposes of lighting was made in Paris, but the discoverer was not able to induce any person to advance even 1,000*f.* for an apparatus on a sufficiently large scale for a public experiment. A public experiment took place at the Place de la Concorde, in the presence of several of the authorities, and from four to five thousand of the inhabitants of Paris, on the 20th inst. On one of the bases of the statues called the Pavillion de Lille, a glass globe of apparently twelve or thirteen inches diameter, with a moveable reflector, was fixed in connection with a voltaic battery, and at a little before nine o'clock the electric fluid was thrown into it by a conductor. At this time all the gas lights in the place, about 100 in number, were burning. As soon as the electric light appeared, the nearest gas lights had the same dull, thick, and heavy appearance as oil lamps have by the side of gas. Soon afterwards the gas lights were extinguished, and the electric light shone forth in all its brilliancy. Within 100 yards of the light it was easy to read the smallest print; it was in fact as light as day. The astonishment of the assembled multitude was very great, and their delight as strong as their astonishment. The estimate made by scientific persons who were present, was that the electric light was equal to twenty of the gas lamps, and consequently that five of these lights would suffice to light the whole place most brilliantly. As regards the expense of production, nothing positive has transpired, but it would be considerably less than that of the generation of gas, whilst the first outlay for machinery and conductors would not amount to a twentieth part of that required for gas works. There would also be another great advantage in the electric light. It gives out no bad smell; it emits none of those elements which, in the burning of gas, are so injurious to health, and explosion would be impossible. The only danger that would arise would be at the battery itself, but that would be under the control of competent persons; and even in this respect there would be no danger, even to unskilful persons, with an apparatus of moderate size. Internal lighting would be as practicable as external lighting, for by conductors the fluid would be conveyed to every part of the house. This experiment was with a voltaic battery of two hundred pairs, composed as follows:—1st, an outer globe of glass; 2ndly, in this globe a cylinder of charcoal, open at both ends, and plunged in the nitric acid contained in the outer globe; 3rdly, in the cylinder of charcoal a porous porcelain vase, containing acidulated water (with sulphuric acid)—this replaces the cloth in the common battery; 4thly, in the porcelain vase a cylinder of amalgam of zinc plunged in acidulated water. The pile was on the Pavilion de Lisle; the two copper conductors from the two poles, and pointed with charcoal, lead to an empty globe from which the air has been exhausted. The two fluids on meeting produce a soft but most intense light. The experiment was considered highly successful by the authorities who were present, and it is to be repeated on a larger scale. Should the thing work as well in a general way as it did last night, and the cost be less than that of gas, which it must be, there will be a dreadful revolution in gas-works. A company for the supply of the electric light would realise a handsome profit on charging only a sixth of what is now paid for gas. The strength of the electric light did not appear to exceed that of the hydro-oxygen; but then how much more simple is the apparatus; how much less costly the expense of production! The hydro-oxygen light requires a double and most expensive apparatus, and is only applicable to a few localities; the electric light may be applied externally and internally in any place.

RAILWAYS.—Parliamentary notices have been affixed to the doors of the parish churches in Edinburgh for bills to be carried through Parliament in the ensuing session—1st, for the prolongation of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway to the North Bridge; and 2nd, for the erection of a railway from North Bridge, Edinburgh, to Berwick-upon-Tweed, with a branch line to Haddington.—*Edinburgh Journal.*

ASSESSED TAXES CASES.

Determined by the Judges on Appeal.

Windows—Warehouses—What is not within the Act.

A room on a first floor, and another on a second floor, being part and parcel of the dwelling-house, and having internal communication therewith, are not warehouses within the 48 Geo. 3, c. 55, sch. (A), although solely used as warehouses for the deposit of goods.

AT a meeting of the commissioners of land and assessed taxes, acting in and for the division of Penmlyn, in the county of Merioneth, held at the town-hall, Bala, the 8th and 14th September, 1840, for the purpose of hearing appeals against the first assessment (48 Geo. 3. c. 55, sch. A);—Mrs. Davies of the town of Bala, draper, appealed and claimed exemption for five warehouse windows, under and by virtue of the Board's circular letter to surveyors, dated July 29, 1840—3363. The appellant stated that her dwelling-house, shop, and warehouse, are one and the same building; that the shop is a continued front of the dwelling-house, having an internal communication therewith; there are two windows in the same not charged; that the warehouse windows which she claimed to be exempt from the duty by virtue of the said letter, are two rooms appropriated and wholly set apart and used as a warehouse only, in which shop goods are lodged and kept, and are used in no other way whatever; that one of the said rooms is on the first floor, immediately over the shop, the other is on the second floor, immediately over the same, and extends over the whole of that part of the building, from front to back; that the said rooms have no internal communication whatever with any part of the dwelling-house, there is a door-place in the first-floor room, and one in the room above, but are never opened, the only access thereto is a stair from the shop, which doth not in the least interfere with the dwelling-house. At the back of the shop, on the ground floor, there is a parlour with a door into the shop, and immediately above the same, and at the back of the first floor front warehouse, there is a sitting-room; the said warehouse rooms are considered in every respect the warehouse contemplated by the said letter, the windows of which by virtue thereof are exempt from duty, in which opinion the commissioners concurred, and allowed the appeal, with which determination the surveyor was dissatisfied, and contended the appellant was not entitled to the relief granted, inasmuch as the rooms used as a warehouse in this instance are in every respect a part and parcel of the dwelling-house, there being a sitting-room and a parlour immediately under the upper warehouse, and the whole being under the same roof, requested that the case be stated for the opinion of her Majesty's judges, which we hereby state and sign.

Given under our hands this 18th day of February, 1841.

R. W. PRICE, } Commissioners.
RICE ANWYL, }

We are of opinion, that the determination of the commissioners is wrong.

J. PATTESON. T. COLTMAN. W. WIGHTMAN.

Windows—Workshop—What is not, within the Act, 48 Geo. 3, c. 55, sch. (A).

Appellant, a carpenter and joiner, claimed exemption for a room in which he worked, in front and on the ground floor of his house, with which it has an internal communication on such floor, viz. with the kitchen, and it has also bedrooms over it. Held, not exempt, the same being parcel of the dwelling-house, having an internal communication therewith and bedrooms over.

AT a meeting of the commissioners of land and assessed taxes, acting in and for the said division and county, held at Llanddewyvre, the 21st and 22nd days of August, 1840, for the purpose of hearing appeals against the first assessments (48 Geo. 3, c. 55, sch. A.);—David Morris, of Barmouth, carpenter and joiner, appealed against a charge for window duty, claiming exemption for one in a workshop. The appellant stated that the room wherein he works is in front and on the ground floor of the house in which he resides, that there is an internal communication on that floor between it and the dwelling-house, being a door into the kitchen, that there are bed-rooms over the same, that he considered the windows of such workshop, by the board's letter of the 28th July, 1840—3363, not liable to duty, and contended that he was exempt therefrom; the commissioners present entertained a similar opinion, and allowed the appeal, which determination the surveyor contended was not within the meaning and intention of the said letter, inasmuch that the exemption is provided for such workshops and warehouses only that form no part of the dwelling-house; although the room in this instance is set apart and used solely as a workshop, still it is a room of the same house, and is a part and parcel of the dwelling under the same roof, having an internal communication therewith, and having bed-rooms immediately over the same, demanded a case for the opinion of her Majesty's judges, which is here stated and signed accordingly.

Given under our hands the 4th day of February, 1841.

DAVID EVANS, }
RICHARD DAVIES, } Commissioners.

We are of opinion, that the determination of the commissioners is wrong.

J. PATTESON. T. COLTMAN. W. WIGHTMAN.

MAIDSTONE PETTY SESSIONS.

Redress for Workmen.

Mr. Cobb, builder, was summoned by one of his workmen, Francis Jarman, for 16s., balance of wages due to him.

Complainant stated that he had been to work for Mr. Cobb at Tenbridge, and was discharged there by his foreman a fortnight ago. He went to Mr. Cobb for his wages, which he refused to pay him, and told him that he had behaved like a rogue; he said his son was going to Tunbridge to see the foreman and he should not settle with him till after that. Complainant again went for his money, when defendant's son brought a bill against him of 9s. 3d. for gates and 5s. for sand.

Mr. Cobb said that complainant had not been discharged by the foreman; the foreman had talked to him about being so long going his journeys, and he then became abusive and said he would not work any more and went away, leaving two of his horses at Tunbridge. He owed 11s. for turnpikes and sand, which was quite equal to his balance of wages. He (complainant) had worked for witness upwards of five years, and he had never had any occasion to complain of him till lately.

Complainant denied that he owed any thing for sand, but admitted that the amount for gates was due, which he had acknowledged to young Mr. Cobb.

Mr. Cobb said that he only owed him for 4½ days' work, which amounted to 12s., and 5s. 3d. of that was to be deducted for gates.

After some further argument between them,

The Mayor said that as the complainant had been an old servant, he thought they had better refer and settle it between them.

Mr. Cobb, however, not feeling disposed to accede to this request,

His Worship said defendant must pay 6s. 9d., the balance due to the man, and the expenses, of the court, and that if he afterwards found the sand had not been paid for, he (the Mayor) would pay him again out of his own pocket, for he firmly believed the statement of the complainant.

Mr. Cobb then paid the money and the parties retired.

DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT CHURCH AT ALGIERS.—The *Moniteur Algerien* announces the discovery at Orleansville, in preparing the foundations for some new buildings, of the ruins of an old Christian church. On the porch of the edifice was found an inscription in Latin, of which the following is a translation:—"Here reposes our father Reparatus, Bishop, of sacred memory, who, for eight years and eleven months, performed the sacerdotal functions, and who has passed before us in peace, the 11th day of the Calends of August, in the 456th year of the birth of Jesus Christ."

A LARGE SPINDLE.—A large cylindrical mass of wrought-iron, weighing no less than 22,400 lbs., was shipped from the foundry of Messrs. Fawcett and Preston to the Clarence Dock. This immense piece of metal is intended for the spindle of one of her Majesty's steam-frigates; it was placed on two strong trucks, and was drawn through the streets by eleven powerful horses, twenty or thirty men holding by drag ropes in the rear to prevent the trucks from attaining too much velocity in descending inclined planes.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

The new prison buildings at Stapleton Mallet are to be heated and ventilated on the plan pursued in the new Model Prison, London: a sum of upwards of 1,000*l.* has been voted by the magistrates at the Michaelmas Sessions for that purpose.

It is said that a large "cinder tip" (a mountain formed by accumulation of cinders from iron works) at Merthyr is about to be let on building leases by the Penydarran Iron Company.

The King of Prussia, one of the most accomplished and liberal monarchs of the age, has presented to Mr. Britton a splendid "Gold Medal of Merit," as a compliment for his numerous literary works on Antiquities and the Fine Arts; but principally in acknowledgment for his "Dictionary of the Architecture and Archæology of the Middle Ages." The designs on the obverse and reverse are peculiarly beautiful, strictly classical, and arranged with novelty and taste. Around the verge is this inscription:—"Presented by the King of Prussia to John Britton. 1843."

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